



NORFOLK

Memorandum

TO: City Council

FROM: Lori A. Crouch, Public Relations Manager

COPIES TO: City Clerk, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Council Interests

DATE: January 23, 2015

I hope you all had a nice week. Here is information regarding several items of interest raised during the January 13th Council meeting plus Norfolk receives several environmental awards and national recognition for plaNorfolk 2030.

Church Marker: The historic marker commemorating Bank Street Church formerly located at 501 Bank Street was hit by a car some time ago and has been in storage. The Church has since moved to Chesapeake Blvd and Johnston Road. Fortunately we have a city employee who can repair the sign and staff is making arrangements with the church to remount the marker at its former location near Scope Plaza.

Storm Water Outfall: Staff spoke to the resident concerning the bulkhead project outfall pipe. The resident and staff have worked together on a solution and the project is moving forward.

Grandy Village Street Sweeping: Staff has addressed the issue regarding the parking tickets issued in Grandy Village. A parking enforcement employee accidentally ticketed the vehicles on the wrong street sweeping day. We have voided the tickets that were issued.

Seaboard History Tidbits: The City of Norfolk purchased the former United States Court House and Post Office building from the Treasury Department on April 10, 1937 for \$32,880. The site had been appraised for \$65,760 and the City was able to acquire it for exactly one half of the appraised value. An additional \$78,000 was spent to convert it into City Hall and the new facility opened in April, 1938. The original cost for the Court House building was \$204,589 and the new building was occupied on November 5, 1900.

City of Norfolk Courthouse: The Courthouse ribbon cutting takes place on Saturday, January 24th. The public is invited to tour the facility from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Environmental Awards: The Elizabeth River Project recognized the City of Norfolk's environmental stewardship with five River Star awards on January 22. Together, River Star's 117 facilities have made environmental stewardship the business standard on the Elizabeth River since 1997.

Norfolk Environmental Storm water Management (Division of Public Works, Justin Shafer and Fleta Jackson) won one of the top two awards, excelling in innovative storm water treatment and public education, and advancing to Three Star Model Achievement Level. As "the best of the best," said ERP, "these River Star facilities lead the community in environmental stewardship through exceptional results in pollution prevention and wildlife habitat, and mentor others."

Other city departments recognized for significant results in pollution prevention and wildlife habitat were:

- Celebrate Trees, awarded Sustained Distinguished Performance for planting new Living Legacy Groves to help reach 40 percent tree canopy (Tree Commission Chair – Ken Danser and RPOS – Michael Nentwich, Urban Forester)
- Norfolk Planning & Community Development Department, awarded Sustained Distinguished Performance for completing comprehensive shoreline restoration on the Lafayette River's Colley Bay (award accepted by Kevin DuBois, Norfolk Environmental Commission Director),
- Utilities Department, awarded Sustained Distinguished Performance for energy savings and operating efficiencies. (Alicia Connelly – Utilities Water Quality Manager)
- Virginia Zoo, awarded Sustained Distinguished Performance for its program to add 75 oyster reef balls to its shorelines and 600 new wetland plants to the Zoo's floating wetland islands (Brian Francis – Curator of Horticulture).



plaNorfolk 2030 National Recognition: The American Planning Association (APA) has just released an "Essential Information Packet" on Sustaining Places Practices for Comprehensive Planning. Norfolk's *plaNorfolk2030* is one of the exemplars listed and will be cited again in the upcoming APA Report *Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans*.

Have a great weekend.